

QUA-RAE

HERE IS NEWS OF...THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE, INC.

VOLUME VII, Number 6

June 1976

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QUA-RAE is published monthly by The RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE. Your comments and support are solicited. Please submit articles by the 15th of the month for publication of the first Friday of the following month.

RAE business meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Building basement at 8 PM.

Editor, WA3HDK
Printing, K3QHO
Circulation, WA3HSR
Calendar, WA3UNX
ARRL Bulletins, K3KAP

ERIE'S FINEST AMATEUR RADIO NEWSBULLETIN BY FAR !

RADIO ASSN OF ERIE, INC.
P.O. BOX 844
ERIE, PA. 16512

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ERIE, PA 16506

The Radio Ass'n. of Erie, Inc. Serving area "Hams" for over 27 years.

PREZ SAYS

by W3NGI Frank Grace

I wish to call attention to the FCC exams scheduled for September 20. It is not only important to you but to yours truly and the RAE organization.

For years we have heard every excuse for not traveling to Buffalo and now the excuse is gone as the FCC comes to Erie.

Do yourself a favor and save that excuse and trip by joining us on September 20, Amateur Radio Upgrading Day in the Erie area.

Thanks and 73's.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO RAE DIRECTORY

by Bob WA3HDK

Please add the following information to your 1976 Directory which was mailed with last month's issue of QUA-RAE. If you did not receive the directory or the information did not list you properly, please get in touch with me. Call 725-9226 or write WA3HDK, Box 814, Erie, PA 16512.

ADDITIONS

Whitney, Ernest
Griffey Road
West Springfield, PA 16443
Phone: (814) 922-3443

Proper, Neal
4039 Ridge Park Way
Erie, PA 16510
Phone: (814) 899-9190

Gross, W. Neal
2063 Freeport Road
North East, PA 16428
Phone: (814) 725-1816

Kightlinger, Ed
R. D. #5, Box 71
Titusville, PA 16354
Phone: (814) 827-6828

Dombrowski, Barbara
R. D. #2
Wattsburg, PA 16442
Phone: (814) 739-2742

CORRECTIONS

Wagner, John should have been listed as Wagner, Jon WA3UCQ.

PRE-FCC EXAM SESSIONS

by W3NGI Frank Grace

Classes will be conducted for General Code & Theory, Advanced Theory, and Extra Class Code & Theory.

The classes will be held on Wednesdays, August 18 & 25th, and Wednesdays, September 1 and 8th from 7:00 to 9:30 PM at the Red Cross Building, West 6th and Sassafras.

These classes have been scheduled to assist you in passing the FCC exams on Monday, September 20.

CODE & THEORY EXAMS

by W3NGI Frank Grace

On Monday, September 20, 1976 at 10:00 AM, the Federal Communications Commission will conduct code and theory examinations in Erie.

Examinations will be conducted on the third floor of the downtown YMCA, 10th and Peach Street, for General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra.

This marks the first time since 1929 the exams for amateur licenses will be conducted in our city.

For those interested, please contact in advance W3NGI Frank at 866-3035 or W3KKT Norma at Corry 665-9124.

This is your chance to save a trip to Buffalo and gain an FCC-issued ticket.

REPEATER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

by WA3UCP Bob Jackson

The repeater committee is a committee of users of the RAE-owned repeater, WR3ACA, operated on 146.34/146.94 MHz. In order for the committee to pay the expenses of operation, it asks those who use the machine to become active members and pay an annual fee of \$10. Expenses of the committee include rental fees to the tower where the repeater is located, electricity to operate the machine, as well as the proposed control telephone line charge. Unfortunately, repeaters DO NOT operate without cost!

Current members of the committee and their handles are listed below alphabetically by call suffix:

WB3BRE - Don
WA3EAY - Mary
K3FXM - Al
WA3HDK - Bob
W3IAG - Bob
WA3JUO - Larry
WA3MKT - Rick
K3NAU - Chuck
W3NGI - Frank
WA3PUI - Bruce

WA3PZQ - Paul
K3QHO - Jim
WA3SHW - Mike
W3SN - Bart
W3STK - Scotty
WA3TRJ - Hoppy
WA3UCP - Bob
WA3UCQ - Jon
WA3UCR - Bill

W3UCZ - Fred
WA3UDH - Ron
WA3UET - Ed
WA3VXZ - Joe
K3WTZ - Bob
W3ZLO - Chuck
K3ZOB - Doc
WA3ZXO - Maurice
SWL - Jack Thompson

With costs of everything going up with our proposed new site and the proposed telephone control line costs, it is imperative to have all repeater users in the area covered become members and pay the annual fee. Without this financial support, the committee and the repeater cannot function. To join, you are invited to attend the meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Building at 8:00 PM. If you can't attend, please mail your annual fee to: WA3UCP Bob Jackson, Secretary
RAE Repeater Committee
3414 Loveland Avenue
Erie, PA 16506

It's been a busy last few months and not everything that should have been done has been. To that end, I'm just going to address a few problems--not in any order, and certainly not to point any barbs (something like, "those who live in glass houses...") but to get you thinking in terms of what has to be done and perhaps, enlist your help. Well, here goes.

The licensing school has just completed its current session. A big pat on the back goes to those individuals who helped. I was going to list them but was afraid I'd leave someone out. Maybe Frank W3NGI will assign someone to write a little summary and submit it to QUA-RAE.

By the time this gets into print the 1976 Field Day will be history. It's too late to include a blow-by-blow on this one but we'll ask Ron WA3UDH to submit something for the next issue.

Frank W3NGI has been approached to get someone to operate regularly on the Eye Bank Net. You probably remember that George Roshey W3LKJ was a key figure in Erie until his death a couple of years ago. If you want details, call Frank.

The novice net in Erie is not progressing well. Need more checkins. There has been some talk of changing frequency but as far as I know nothing has been done about it. Information I have puts it on 7125 at 6:00 PM local time on Tuesdays. Jerry WN3ZZS is net manager. How about an article, Jerry?

Permission to spend up to \$130 for an antenna tuner for use at the Red Cross Station has been granted. The tuner, to serve double service in the Comm truck, will be housed at the Red Cross Building. Only problem is, we're not sure what is the best unit. Can anyone help? We almost have to use an end-fed antenna because of lack of supporting structures on the south end. The antenna should serve all bands. The decision is holding up plans to make the RC station available for membership use on a regular basis. We will have to give each member who wants to use the station an orientation to the equipment and an operator's card, but that's a minor problem. How about it, guys? This station can be on the air if we get some help. It will mean that those in the area who do not have HF stations at home (including novices, but they should have supervision) can come to the Red Cross and operate Drake equipment. Again someone with experience will have to help select the equipment and then we'll get a work party to install the thing.

By the way, my XYL, Marlene, who recently got her novice ticket, says ARRL and others better stop addressing new hams as "Dear OM."

The situation at the Emergency Operating Center continues to be a minor disaster in itself. Not one antenna is satisfactory. Much of the equipment is inoperable for one reason or another. To top it off, no one seems to be willing to spend an evening once a month to gradually fix up the joint. Maybe there is not enough time in the evening. Would you spend a Saturday out there if we had a work party planned?

The newsletter really doesn't have a staff. I would like to have regular staff meetings. Two heads really are better than one and additional thought could keep the newsletter from becoming stale. Presently we are meeting concurrently with the EOC meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month--which doesn't really matter anyway as the same two or three show up each month. If you are interested in either project, please show up at the EOC on the fourth Thursday each month at about 8:00 PM.

(Cont. on Page 4)

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS (Continued from Page 3)

Bart W3SN has been named by ARRL as assistant to Atlantic Division Directory, Harry A. McConaghy W3SW. Perhaps we can have more details later, but it is nice to see RAE represented again.

Looks like the repeater will be moved into the county again, perhaps by the time this is printed. Call Chuck K3NAU if you can help.

Still no details on RAE activities planned for the rest of the year. On Saturday, October 9, a hamfest flea market and dinner will mark the beginning of our 1977 membership year. The 10:00 AM-til-perhaps-10:00 PM affair will require help from many, so be prepared. Let's make this the biggest in our history and the best in this section of the country! Come on now, Mike WA3HSR and George K3VLP, Let's hear some more about it. How about it, Activity Director? Are we going to have any more activities this year? Do you have the first three programs started for next year's committee so that there is no break in the continuity?

Well, that about wraps it up for now. Remember, this will be the last issue until the first week in September. Deadline for that issue is August 15. Have a good summer, submit news about your favorite activity any time, give us your opinions, and come to the club meetings.

SCHOOL REPORT

by W3NGI Frank Grace

I have nothing but praise for the people who helped make the recently concluded code and theory classes the success they were.

Some thirty-six novices are now being processed for their ticket as well as many present novices upgrading to general and a few going for advanced and amateur extra on September 20 or before.

No single individual can be given all the credit--working collectively, the job is being accomplished.

School staff:

Chuck	WA3KAI	Novice Code	Rick	WA3MKT	General Theory
Sherry	WA3ZSK	Novice Code	Ron	WA3UDH	Advanced Theory
Mike	WA3SHW	Novice Theory	Maurice	WA3ZXO	Advanced Theory
Dick	WA3TYI	General Code	Norma	WA3KKT	High Speed Code
Don	WA3UNX	General Code	Scotty	W3STK	Coffee Break
Rick	WA3LSY	General Theory	Hoppy	WA3TRJ	Assisting

My personal thanks to the twelve who made radio history for Erie, Bob WA3HDK for the loan of that amplifier, Chuck WA3KAI on publicity, and Bart W3SN on printing.

Warren, PA now on 16-76 with the call of WR3AGW.

K2KD Otto Herbst formerly of Erie looking for local contacts on 40 & 80 meter CW.

WN3CHG new novice call belongs to Jim Marsh of Waterford.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by WB3BRE, Chairman. The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting on March 11, 1976 and the minutes of the Technical Subcommittee meeting on March 22, 1976. WA3TRJ moved and K3ZOB seconded that the minutes be accepted as read. The Treasurer reported that we started with a balance of \$140.50 from last month, added \$40 from dues, paid \$1.48 to Waterford Electric and have a current balance of \$179.02. The Treasurer reported we currently have 21 paid members. WA3TRJ moved and K3NAU seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding printing of Repeater Committee members names and calls in QUA-RAE. WA3HDK moved to print names and calls of members in QUA-RAE as well as a short article designed to encourage membership in the Repeater Committee. WA3ZX0 seconded it and the motion carried.

The trustee of the repeater, WA3TRJ, reported that the repeater was down about 24 hours due to National Fuel Gas interference. WA3ZX0 stated that this pointed up need for a control station and suggested we get interference on tape. WA3UDH suggested a letter be written to National Fuel Gas stating times of interference. WA3UDH moved to write the Division Manager alerting them of the problem with their system and asking them to look into the problem. WA3ZX0 seconded the motion and it carried.

Under old business, WA3MKT suggested we get money from RAE only as needed (with reference to the \$810 allocated to upgrading of the repeater). W3NGI felt this was understood at the time of the RAE meeting. K3QHO wants the repeater committee to act together prior to the purchase of any gear rather than the technical subcommittee only. With reference to repayment of fund to the RAE by the repeater committee, comments were made that the committee shouldn't mortgage its future. WA3UDH felt the committee should keep some minimum balance before repaying RAE. Discussion followed regarding the payback and some members felt we were talking about this prematurely since we haven't as yet borrowed anything. K3NAU felt the repayment should be part of the current discussion. K3ZOB made a motion to table this discussion until everyone has had a chance to think about repayment and whether the Repeater Committee is separate from or part of the RAE. K3QHO seconded the motion and it carried. This item received considerable discussion.

W3NGI reported on his recent trip to Cincinnati. He stated the repeater situation in Cincinnati is more like a CB repeater with constant breakins and little identification. On the other hand, Columbus has a machine on 16-76 which has three satellite receivers and is operated beautifully--a real model repeater.

K3NAU had no additional facts on WICU-TV location for repeater site. WA3ZX0 stated he was lax on the topographical study. He also commented that many things should be considered before getting a commercial site. Besides the rental fee, riggers would be necessary to put the antenna up in order to have it properly secured, the tower operators would undoubtedly restrict our activities with regard to get to the antenna due to security and liability reasons. W3NGI reported that Gary Brown stated there was no access road except Penelec's to his land. W3NGI stated he didn't want to play "cat and mouse" and questioned whether he should continue to pursue this site at this time. SWL Jack stated the possibility of a site near the microwave tower on Rt. 19. WA3UDH stated we shouldn't press so hard on location at this time until we are more prepared with a repeater to place at the site.

Welcome aboard to Maurice WA3ZX0 who is on CW with his new TS-520.

The RAE Monday night classes came to a close on June 14. I enjoyed working with them and I know there will be some new licenses coming up soon. Don't forget the refresher classes to be held at the Red Cross starting on Wednesday, August 18, and running for four successive Wednesdays through September 8. Time is the same as before, 7-9:30 PM.

Attended the two meter forum at the Red Cross. It was very informative and now I know what is happening on two meter. Thanks to Chuck K3NAU for a fine presentation.

Band conditions still not too good. Getting some QSO's on 40 and 20. My 80 meter dipole is down so don't have a report on that band.

European stations coming in on 20 meters in early evening. Short skip on 20 lately.

Be listening for you on CW.

ARRL BULLETINS (From TTY Copies)

by K3KAP Jerry Owen

Number 589, May 13, 1976

NOW IS THE TIME TO OBTAIN ENTRY FORMS FOR SEVERAL UPCOMING ARRL OPERATING ACTIVITIES. FOR THE JUNE VHF QSO PARTY ONLY LOG SHEETS ARE REQUIRED, CONTAINING SPACE FOR FIFTY CONTACTS PER SHEET. FOR FIELD DAY, DUPE SHEETS ARE REQUIRED, ONE PER BAND/MODE, PLUS A SUMMARY SHEET. THE JULY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION REQUIRES SPECIAL LOG SHEETS CONTAINING SPACE FOR 200 CONTACTS, DUPE SHEETS FOR EACH MODE AND A SUMMARY. ALL OF THESE FORMS ARE READY FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION FROM ARRL WHEN REQUESTS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE AD ADDRESSED AND STAMPED ENVELOPE. PLEASE INDICATE THE CONTEST FORMS REQUIRED.

Number 24, May 17, 1976

IMOL REPORTS THAT AN ITALIAN EMERGENCY NET IS MEETING DAILY AT 216 UTC ON 14290 KHZ TO HANDLE TRAFFIC FROM U.S. HAMS RELATING TO THE RECENT ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE. ITALIAN-SPEAKING HAMS, ESPECIALLY IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA, WHO WISH TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES ARE URGED TO CALL THEIR NEAREST ITALIAN CONSULATE.

Number 594, June 11, 1976

FCC THIS WEEK ADOPTED SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN THE LICENSING STRUCTURE. TECHNICIANS WILL RECEIVE FULL NOVICE PRIVILEGES. THE ONE-YEAR WAIT BETWEEN NOVICE LICENSES IS DELETED. NOVICES WILL BE PERMITTED 250 WATTS D.C. INPUT POWER. ALL LICENSES SIMILARLY WILL BE LIMITED TO 250 WATTS WHEN USING NOVICE FREQUENCIES. FULL CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR EXAM ELEMENTS PASSED IN A TEST ADMINISTERED BY A VOLUNTEER; THAT IS, CONDITIONALS WILL BE GRANDFATHERED TO GENERAL AND TECHNICIAN LICENSEES TO TECHNICIAN.

THE NOVICE WRITTEN TEST WILL BE PART OF EVERY EXAM. THE FUTURE AVAILABLE MAIL EXAMS WILL BE LIMITED TO NOVICE, EXCEPT IN CASES OF PROTRACTED PHYSICAL DISABILITY, CONTINUED IN THE FIRST REPORT AND ORDER, DOCKET 20282, GO INTO EFFECT JULY 23. MORE DETAILS WHEN FULL INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON.

REPEATER COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued from Page 6)

WA3UDH reported that two mailgrams were sent to two different manufacturers with requests for information on antennas.

WA3MKT reported on the recent work at the repeater, and stated that the new transmitter was not properly shielded and took it back out of service. WA3UDH said last Sunday he had checked the antenna and found high SWR, put up the Ringo Ranger and got desense back. WA3ZX0 said on Wednesday they sent up with 60 watt Progress Line transmitter, put it on-line, tuned it up okay, there were some problems with interfacing, noticed desensing on both high and low power, didn't leave on air as the ID audio didn't work properly. On Wednesday night they went back to the site and put the transistor transmitter and two antennas back up. On Thursday they returned and got white noise out but couldn't get desense out which indicates RF getting back in as Progress Line is not inherently well shielded. They reported they are still trying to find out if tube equipment is better than transistor equipment. WA3ZX0 wants constructive opinions on how we can find out the status of the duplexer with professional analysis. WA3TRJ made a motion, which was seconded by WA3UDH and amended by K3ZOB that we telephone first and if acceptable we ship the duplexer back to Phelps Dodge for checking and repair. Discussion ensued and the motion was defeated with WA3TRJ dissenting.

K3NAU suggested a number of alternatives, one of which was to take the duplexer to Buffalo and have Sinclair Radio Labs tune it. WA3ZX0 moved and W3NGI seconded that Sinclair Radio Labs be contacted for their opinion and estimate and if the price was reasonable we ship it to them for repair on faith of the technical subcommittee regarding the cost. The motion carried.

WA3TRJ moved and WA3UDH seconded to put in a phone line for control at the repeater site. K3NAU moved to table the motion which passed with WA3TRJ dissenting.

K3QHO brought up the electrical connection at the CD farm and asked if we should now discontinue the service. WA3UDH commented it should be left on to avoid reconnection charges should the site be switched back to the CD farm.

WA3TRJ announced that as trustee, he would turn off WR3ACA as of midnight tonight due to lack of controls. He stated that he has been trying for two years to get proper controls for the machine and he keeps getting put off. K3ZOB made a motion to adjourn and WA3TRJ seconded it. The motion was defeated.

Considerable discussion ensued and it was virtually impossible to keep notes on it all. However, WB3BRE listed the alternatives on the blackboard: (1) Do nothing- shut the repeater off; (2) Move repeater to K3NAU's mother's house per his offer; (3) Put in phone line to tower for control; (4) Get proper UHF controls; or (5) Move repeater to K3QHO's home. After some discussion regarding these alternatives, WB3BRE suggested that we reshift our priorities to make controls number one and make a decision on this by end of next meeting. WA3ZX0 suggested that if nothing happens by the end of the next meeting, the repeater should go off the air and the trustee should be permitted, if he so wanted to, to resign his trusteeship in order that he may be protected. (Cont. on Page 8)

WA3KFX Doug has a new call for his QTH in Columbus, Ohio WB8ZVU.

Lin Jetters W3HTD former Erieite still running that QRP rig from Florida.

REPEATER COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued from Page 7)

WA3UDH made a motion to allocate \$15 per month for a phone line with the installation charge to come from the \$50 allotment for controls in the budget request to RAE for repeater upgrading. WA3TRJ seconded the motion and it passed. K3ZOB commented that the repeater committee should decide first how the committee could afford to pay for the phone line, tower rent, electric bill and other expenses with such a limited income. He then moved to cancel all previous motions. No action taken on this motion.

WA3UDH moved to adjourn, WA3TRJ seconded it, motion carried at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Jackson, WA3UCP, Secretary

SSB

Sale, Swap, Buy

WANTED - Time-running meter, preferably 117 Volt. Must be 60 cycle. Audio signal generator. Bob WA3HDK - 725-9226.

FOR SALE - Galaxy GT-550, 80-10 meter, SSB/CW XCVR with AC-400 power supply and D-104 Mic. \$275 or best offer. For information call Terry WA3LTB at 774-3414.

STRAYS

by W3NGI Frank

WA3TBJ Les from Clarion heard on 40 CW from Erie works for A.O. Smith.
Congratu

Congratulations to Rick Cutter WA3MKT on passing his first class commercial exam.

W3IAG Bob working with QRP gear.

WB3CIT Gary newest ham in Corry on 2 meters.

WN3CFC Gary Linton newest novice in Corry.

W3LOD Pat from Oil City now running 2 meter FM.

W2RUH Russ in Westfield, N.Y. and K81MX Mac in Ashtabula get top score for consistently reporting into the 2 meter Tri-State net.

WA3YEQ Gail from Slippery Rock, a top CW operator working Erie County stations on a scheduled basis.

Erie once again now has three repeaters on the air with the return of the 16-76 machine located at 38th and Parade Street Blvd.

According to Frank W3NGI, Heathkit will come out with a new CW transceiver, successor to the HW16 at the end of the year.

For good code practice try working W3E1Y Al in Hillcrest, Maryland on 7070 KHZ.